

# EXPRESSES DOUBT OF MERGER BENEFIT

Commissioner Kutz Discusses  
Amalgamation of Railway  
and Lighting Companies.

CAN SEE NO REDUCTION  
IN OVERHEAD CHARGES

Appears at Hearing on the Fairchild  
Bill—Utilities Commission De-  
fends Dr. Bemis.

That neither reduced overhead  
charges nor improvement in the load  
of the power plant would follow amal-  
gamation of the Washington Railway  
and Electric and Potomac Electric  
Power companies is the opinion of the  
public utilities commission, as ex-  
pressed by Engineer Commissioner Kutz,  
chairman, at the hearing before the  
District committee of the House yes-  
terday on the Fairchild bill to merge  
these corporations.

Commissioner Kutz cited these as the  
principal advantages to be derived from  
a combination, and then set forth at  
length reasons why the commission be-  
lieves such benefits would not accrue  
from the merger under consideration.

Directed by Same Officers.

He stated that the two companies  
have the same officers and board of di-  
rectors, and that no material saving  
can be made in accounting and book-  
keeping, since the companies are re-  
quired by the commission to keep their  
accounts separate.

"Nor will the load of the power plant  
be changed by the proposed combina-  
tion," he continued. "It now has prac-  
tically the entire light and power load  
of the District, except that of the other  
large street railway company, which  
has its own power plant. Therefore, as  
has been stated, there would result  
from the proposed combination none of  
the economies which usually make it  
advantageous to combine."

Commissioner Kutz then enumerated  
what he characterized "reasons far  
more important than these" why the  
companies should not be permitted to  
merge at this time.

Makes Charges Against Companies.

He charged the companies with hav-  
ing endeavored to prevent the com-  
mission from seeing to it that users of  
electric and street railway services pay  
for such service the cost thereof plus a  
reasonable return to the companies.

Despite obstacles thrown in the way of  
its investigation the commission, said  
Commissioner Kutz, had collected facts  
to show that the power corporation  
pays a 10 per cent dividend on its stock  
through its light and power business  
to private consumers, all of which ac-  
crued to the railway corporation  
through its ownership of all the stock  
of the power company.

"The valuation and investigations thus  
far made of these two utilities by the  
commission," he continued, "show that  
if the railway corporation paid its share  
of the cost referred to, plus a return (as-  
sumed for the purpose of this investi-  
gation at a rate of 7 1/2 per cent) on the  
value of the property of the power cor-  
poration used for the purpose, the in-  
crease in earnings of the power cor-  
poration would be about \$340,000 and the  
decrease in the earnings of the railway  
corporation would be about the same  
amount."

Says Private Consumers Will Lose.

In concluding Commissioner Kutz said  
that all these conditions—the payment by  
the railway corporation of less than cost  
for power, the sale of some of this power  
to other railway corporations, the never-  
theless profitable business of the power  
corporation through its rates to private  
consumers—increased the dividends on the  
stock of the railway corporation at the  
expense of the private consumers of elec-  
tric current.

He declared that completion of the  
valuation now in progress would mark  
the first step toward correcting this  
condition, and that the correction is  
confident it can accomplish the other  
steps under existing law within a reason-  
able time if the companies remain  
separate. If, however, Congress should  
feel that the advantages of consolida-  
tion outweigh the disadvantages, he  
expressed the hope that the proposed  
legislation will be postponed until the

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valuations have been completed and  
rates established.

Defense of Dr. Bemis.

Members of the utilities commission  
today came to the defense of Dr. E. W.  
Bemis, head of the valuation bureau of  
the commission, who was criticized at  
yesterday's hearing by W. F. Ham, vice  
president of the Washington Railway  
and Electric Company, as being unfair  
and impractical. The commissioners  
made public Dr. Bemis' record as a val-  
uation expert in other cities. They  
stated that since the beginning of the  
valuation work, May 1, 1914, the rail-  
way and power companies had stead-  
fastly declined to co-operate in the un-  
dertaking, but never before had given  
as a reason for lack of co-operation  
dissatisfaction with Dr. Bemis.

There's something wrong with the  
bride who doesn't select a homelier  
girl than herself for a bridesmaid.

HECHT & CO. SEVENTH ST., NEAR F

View of Back

Plaiting  
For Your Easter Gowns.  
No order is so large or small  
that it won't be completed when  
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Hemstitching,  
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Cor. 8th, at E St. N.W.

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**BRIDGE FIRE BLOCKS TRAINS.**  
**Norfolk & Western Structure De-  
stroyed by Incendiary.**

PETERSBURG, Va., April 21.—Fire,  
said by Norfolk and Western officials  
to have been of incendiary origin,  
totally destroyed a bridge on the Nor-  
folk and Western railway three miles  
east of here yesterday, causing a loss  
of \$3,000 and blocking all traffic over  
the Petersburg-City Point branch of  
the road.

The fire broke out at a time when all  
of the passenger trains used in hauling  
men and from this city to meet the  
different shifts at the du Pont Com-  
pany's Hopewell plant were at the  
other end of the line. This made it  
necessary for the railroad to use  
freight cars in which to haul the pas-  
sengers to this city after they had  
been transferred over the small creek,

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which the bridge formerly spanned. It  
is thought that traffic will be inter-  
rupted for about twenty-four hours.

**VOTED DOWN BY CONFERENCES.**  
**Methodists Fail to Get Negro Bishops  
for Work Among Their Race.**

CHICAGO, April 21.—Methodists who  
sought to have negro bishops provided  
for work among negro people failed  
to receive the sanction of the annual  
conferences of the Methodist Episcopal  
Church, the affirmative vote failing by  
650 votes to reach the necessary two-  
thirds.

Announcement of the vote was made  
today by Dr. Joseph B. Hingeley, sec-  
retary of the general conference of the  
Methodist Episcopal Church. The total  
affirmative vote was 4,921 and the total  
negative vote 3,481.

The Wilmington proposition, giving

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bishops the right to veto in constitu-  
tional issues, was lost by a majority  
of 1,571 ministers and 960 laymen.

The Colorado proposition, granting  
honorary privileges to retired ministers  
and absentee voting on constitutional  
matters, had a majority of 2,012, and  
will become law by favorable action  
by the general conference at Saratoga  
Springs, May 1.

The three questions now decided have  
been voted upon by the Methodists  
since 1912, and were considered the  
most important propositions before the  
various conferences.

**FAVORS DEFENSE HIGHWAY.**  
**Mr. Lewis Says Smith Bill Appeals  
to All Marylanders.**

Representative Lewis of Maryland  
today issued a statement in favor of  
the "national defense highway" pro-  
posed to be built between Washington  
and Annapolis, and also endorsed Sena-

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tor Smith's bill to provide government  
aid in building the road.

"I voted for the Shackleford bill," he  
said, "which has passed the House, giv-  
ing government aid to the building and  
improvement of post roads on the line  
of the Shomaker road law in Mary-  
land. But the Smith bill particularly  
appeals to Marylanders, and ought to  
appeal to people generally on account  
of both its historical and direct mili-  
tary importance to the seat of govern-  
ment. The national wealth now is  
\$2,000 per capita and exceeds that of  
any other country by about 50 per cent;  
I do not know of any better use we can  
make of our surplus wealth than to put  
a part of it into the roads of the coun-  
try, which, like Aaron's rod, striking  
the rock of our potential resources, will  
respond with even greater wealth for  
our people."

A novel feature of ships which are  
being built for the National Steam  
Navigation Company of Greece is a  
little church which will be fitted on  
board each vessel.

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**TO REOPEN SHOPS MONDAY.**  
**Quiet Prevails at Plant Under Guard  
at Hastings-on-Hudson.**

HASTINGS-ON-HUDSON, N. Y., April  
21.—Quiet prevailed today at the plant  
of the National Conduit and Cable Com-  
pany, where state troops are on guard  
because of the strike among the em-  
ployees, numbering nearly 3,000.

Announcement was made that the  
company plans to reopen its shops  
Monday. The plant was closed after  
strikers and sympathizers had engaged  
in rioting.

**Senate to Vote on Free Sugar Repeal.**

The Senate will take up the free sug-  
ar repeal bill tomorrow at 1 o'clock,  
the motion being to recede from the  
Senate amendment and accept the  
House bill, and to vote on it at 5

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o'clock. Unanimous consent was given  
by the Senate for this arrangement  
yesterday. The House bill is an un-  
conditional repeal of the free sugar  
clause of the Underwood tariff law, and  
would leave the tariff as it is. The  
Senate had amended the bill so that sug-  
ar would go on the free list in May,  
1920.

**To Buy College Park Aviation Field.**

Senator Gallinger of New Hampshire  
today introduced in the Senate a bill  
providing for the purchase by the gov-  
ernment of the property formerly  
leased at College Park, Md., for an  
aviation field and for other military  
purposes. The bill authorized the ex-  
penditure of \$400,000.

The wood consumed in this country  
in the manufacture of paper amounts  
annually to 4,500,000 cords, and every  
year the demand for some substitute  
grows more urgent.

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## The Suit You'll Wear for Easter!

### The Aristocrat-ic "Capper"

Caps the Climax of Classy Clothes Creations

#### Double-Breasted "Pinch-Back" Model

# \$16.75

### A \$25.00 Suit

#### of Unusually Distinctive Appearance

—it's far and away the biggest favorite of the season with men of discriminating tastes.

If you want to make a proper and stylish appearance on Easter Sunday—the "Capper" is the suit for you—and here's the only place in Washington to buy it—because it's a model all our own—and the price, \$16.75, is so remarkably low for such a remarkably classy model that we'll sell every Capper in the house tomorrow.

The view of the back and view of the front illustrated here show you the racy lines of this clever clothes creation, and a further examination at our store will disclose to you its skeleton-lined construction—with every seam elegantly finished with satin tape.

It's a regular \$25 model, and we're putting it out as the greatest leader of leaders at \$16.75. Order one tomorrow.

### Never Has An Easter Season Found Us With a More Complete or Magnificent Showing of

## Society Brand and Aristocrat-ic Clothes

Our greatly augmented stocks of these famous makes indicate our expectations of an enormously increased volume of business this spring—expectations which are now being fully realized as one busy day follows another. Quality is coming into its own. You are realizing as never before the wisdom and economy of buying good clothes—Society Brand and Aristocrat-ic clothes—than which there are no better in all the world. Here are complete—unrivaled—unlimited lines of these renowned garments for your Easter selection at

**\$15 \$18 \$20 \$25 \$30 \$35 \$40 \$50**

The Aristocrat-ic Clothes Shop—Hecht & Co., First Floor—Home of Society Brand Clothes.

## Mr. Man—These Easter Shirts \$1.05

### Have Been Selected With Care

On Atlantic City's Boardwalk you will not see handsomer shirts than these we are offering at \$1.05.

They are worth a whole lot more—we'll let you judge their value for yourself. Plain colors and rich stripe effects. They are made of high-grade madras, percale and new satin stripes, in many different colors. You'll find sizes from 14 to 17. Both soft and stiff cuffs.

### 4 Particularly "Picked" Specials for Men

**Gorgeous Silk Easter Four-in-Hands, 55c.**  
**Extra Heavy Tub Silk Shirts, \$3.55**  
**50c Medium-weight Underwear, a garment, 39c.**  
**Regular \$1.00 Athletic Underwear, a garment, 79c.**  
**Made of Mercerized Madras**

## To the Woman Who Will Buy Her Easter Hat Tomorrow

Suppose you have waited until now to purchase "the Crowning Glory to Your Easter Costume." Don't worry—Hecht & Co. specialization has made it possible for any woman to procure even at the eleventh hour the hat of her choice—distinctive and radiating with inimitable becomingness.

Such is the New and Authentic  
**'Parisienne' Line at \$5.55**

"Parisienne" Hats are charming—new and delightfully piquant—each a copy of an imported model that has the true French accent. Parisienne Hats are notable hats even in the most exclusive gathering.

Hundreds of them tomorrow—AND NO TWO ALIKE.

## There Is a Fascination About Leghorn Hats

A fascination accounted for because of the charming grace and ultra-stylishness they lend the wearer. Extremely new and beautifully made are the Leghorn Hats offered in tomorrow's sale.

# At \$1.98, \$2.98, \$3.98

—Third Floor.

## Tomorrow Is the Day of Days for Boys and Girls

The boys and girls certainly must look their best Sunday in the Easter parade. Tears and saddened hearts will follow any neglect of the youngsters just at this time. We are ready to do our part with a perfectly trained organization that's mighty refreshing in the eleventh hour of Easter shopping—specialized stocks, ample assortments and excellent values.

### Girls' New White Dresses \$2.98 to \$9.98

Of fine quality white lawn, organdie, sheer white batiste and mull, in the most becoming models—bolero jacket and coatee effects. Lace and embroidery trimmed. One and two blouse skirts. Sizes 6 to 14 years.

### Girls' and Misses' Middy Blouses, 89c

Twenty new styles of fine Lonsdale jean and galatea; one in the Norfolk style, with yoke and lacer side and front. Large and small sailor collars. Some trimmed with soutach braid. Colors are pink, green, red, navy and all white. Sizes 6 to 24 years.

### Girls' Spring Coats \$2.98 to \$9.98

In checks, plaids, mixtures, etc. Of poplin, gabardine, corduroy and silk, in shades of rose, navy, copenhagen, tan, champagne, rose, Belgian blue and black. Straight or flare effects, with or without belts. Sizes 2 to 6 years.

### Boys' Blue Serge Suits, \$5.95

Made of pure worsted navy blue serge, in the new "Pinchback" and regulation Balkan Norfolk models. Both pairs of pants are full lined and reinforced with taped seams. Sizes 7 to 17 years.

### Also suits of homespun, tweeds, cassimeres and chevots, in the newest spring shades of gray and tan, with one and two pairs of pants. Sizes 7 to 18 years.

### Boys' Two-Pants Easter Suits, Special, \$4.95

Of all-wool mixtures and tan and gray cassimeres; also plaids and stripes. Pinch-back and regulation Norfolk models; full lined pants; sizes 7 to 18 years.

### Boys' Spring Hats, 50c to \$2.00

Of milan straw and fancy braids, in natural, black and blue. Middy, rah rah and other becoming styles; also washable hats of duck, linen and galatea.

## Introducing the "Polo"

This Spring's Sensation in Men's Low Shoes at \$5.10

A clean-cut shoe of real character—a shoe that will please any man who cares for correct style plus solid comfort.

In mahogany, dull black, Russia, steel calf and tan calf leathers; resilient rubber heels.

Five-ten is the price.

## Here's a Dainty New and Dressy Street Pump

One of the prettiest spring Colonials for informal wear in our entire line of Marie Antoinette Shoes. Note the new tongue effect and large, sparkling buckles.

Goodyear welt; flexible sole, leather-covered heel. Aristocratic in every graceful line and faultlessly finished.

The Shoe Shop—Third Floor.

## Misses' and Growing Girls' Spring SUITS, \$12.98 to \$29.50

Strictly juvenile fashions created by manufacturers who specialize on apparel for the miss. They're smartly styled of serges, gabardines, poplins, shepherd checks, also silk and cloth combinations. Newest belted and ripple flare effects. Trimmings of silk, braid, buttons and buckles. Colors are navy, sand, green, tan, black and rose; linings of silk peau de cygne. Sizes 12, 15, 18 and 19 years.

# Hecht & Co.

## Seventh Street Near F

## EASTER PETTICOAT SALE \$5.19

In rich, fancy, wide-striped effects, and beautiful plain changeable taffetas. Styles are the smartest obtainable, and the quality and quantity of material used exceptional. These petticoats are fashioned in a delightfully flaring flounce style of taffetas. The price is very special.

### Women's \$24.50 SPRING SUITS, \$16.75

Of black and white worsted checks, serges, poplins and gabardines. Smart belted and flare models; also fitted flare and Norfolk effects that are exceedingly clever. Best silk linings.